Supplemental Response to Final Office action mailed April 15, 2004

Attorney Docket No. 024295-261 Serial No. 10:072,638

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Remarks/Arguments

Claims 7-28 remain in this application. Claims 10-13, 16-18, 21-22 and 27-28 have been

withdrawn by the examiner. Claims 20 and 23 were amended in a previous response.

The claims currently pending include 2 independent claims that are reproduced below with

emphasis added:

7. In the **method** of protecting foundry molds from croding and pitting during sandcasting

by preventing adherence of molding sand to mold pattern surfaces, wherein a pattern coating

composition is applied to the mold pattern surfaces in an amount sufficient to form a coating

thereon which prevents adherence of sand to the mold pattern, the improvement comprising

coating the mold pattern surfaces with a pattern coating composition comprising vegetable

oil and a viscosity reducer selected from the group consisting of mineral seal oil, alcohol and

mixtures thereof.

23. A method for facilitating release of molding sand from mold pattern surfaces comprising

applying to the mold pattern surfaces an effective amount of a biodegradable pattern coating

composition, wherein the biodegradable pattern coating composition comprises vegetable oil;

a viscosity reducer selected from the group consisting of petroleum oil, alcohol and

mixtures thereof, and

optionally a fatty acid.

Applicants' invention relates to a pattern coating composition that is applied to mold pattern

surfaces to facilitate release of molding sand from mold pattern surfaces. The reference cited by

the Examiner (CN 1069432) discloses binders for molds and cores wherein the binders include

petroleum pitch and vegetable oil residue. The compositions disclosed in the '432 reference,

therefore, relate to binders and not pattern coating compositions. Even though the binder

compositions disclosed in the '432 reference are described as improving the separation of the

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east part from the sand mold, this is insufficient to render the claims of the present application.

directed to a method of protecting foundry molds by applying a pattern coating composition,

obvious.

In the advisory action the examiner maintains that the claims do not refer to a release

composition. However, the claims do refer to pattern coating compositions which are the same

as release compositions. Furthermore, the examiner argues that the binder composition in the

prior art improves release of sand from the mold pattern. While this may be true, this does not

lead to the conclusion that the binder is a pattern coating composition. The binder is mixed with

the sand. The binder is not applied to the mold pattern surfaces in an amount sufficient to form

a coating thereon as set forth in claim 7. Likewise, claim 23 refers to "applying to the mold

pattern surfaces an effective amount of a biodegradable pattern coating composition." The

binder in the '432 reference is not applied as a coating composition. It is mixed with the sand to

bind the sand particles together.

In rejecting the claims of the present invention, the Office is not giving any weight to some of

the features of the claims. The Office appears to be taking the position that the identification of a

similar composition for an entirely different use can anticipate or render obvious method claims

directed to an unexpected use of the composition.

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In view of the foregoing response, it is respectfully submitted that the claims now pending are patentably distinct from the references cited and are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of record is respectfully requested. In the event the examiner maintains the rejection, applicants are filing concurrently herewith a notice of appeal. If the examiner wishes to discuss any aspect of this response, please contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted.

John F. Kane, Reg. No. 44.815

THOMPSON HINE LLP 2000 Courthouse Plaza, N.E. P.O. Box 8801 Dayton, Ohio 45401-8801 937-443-6816